

FOI 202300361275

1. So far this year and up to the date of this FOI, could you supply me with how many working days Angus Robertson has spent in Scotland and how many days he has spent outwith Scotland on government business?

2. Angus Robertson attended a reception at Brussels House in May/June to mark the 2023 UCI Cycling World Championships coming to Scotland. Could you supply the full cost of how much this event cost, and a breakdown of these costs? Could you also confirm when it took place, and a list of attendees?

3. Full minutes from meetings held during Angus Robertson's most recent trips to Austria and Belgium.

Response

1. For the purposes of this FOI request, we have interpreted “working days” as Monday to Friday. Between 1/1/23 and 20/6/23 (the date we received this FOI request) there were 142 working days, including 6 public holidays and 15 parliamentary recess days. The Cabinet Secretary spent 17 days on government business outwith Scotland (which included 3 non-working days) and spent 128 days in Scotland.

2. The Scotland House Brussels Summer Reception took place on 1 June 2023.

The breakdown of costs, which were shared between the Scottish Government and Scotland Europa, is as below:

Description	supplier	Actual cost in €
Catering incl staff	Atlantic Kitchen	€ 7,443.00
Whisky Chocolate	Confiserie Certin	€ 144.00
Drinks/spirits	WeAreWhisky	€ 360.00
Drinks/beers	Comptoir Irlandais	€ 241.27
Drinks/softs	Bon Accord	€ 249.91
Drinks/softs	Solucious	€ 300.00
Drinks/wine	Vins Vivants	€ 200.00
Misc		€ 37.00
Extra security guard	G4S	€ 200.00
Photobooth	Photo-Booths Benelux BVBA	€ 603.79
Flowers	H&M Home/Schuman flowers	€ 81.50
TOTAL		€ 9,860.47

[REDACTED]	European Network for Rural Development
[REDACTED]	European Parliament
[REDACTED]	European Parliament
[REDACTED]	European Parliament
[REDACTED]	European Parliament
[REDACTED]	European Regions Research and Innovation Network
[REDACTED]	Executive Office, Northern Ireland
[REDACTED]	Executive Office, Northern Ireland
[REDACTED]	Executive Office, Northern Ireland
[REDACTED]	Executive Office, Northern Ireland
[REDACTED]	Executive Office, Northern Ireland
[REDACTED]	Flemish Government
[REDACTED]	FTI Consulting
[REDACTED]	Global Scot
[REDACTED]	Groene Metropoolregio Arnhem-Nijmegen
[REDACTED]	Hanse-Office
[REDACTED]	Hume-Brophy
[REDACTED]	James Hutton Institute
[REDACTED]	James Hutton Institute
[REDACTED]	Malta Permanent Representation to the EU
[REDACTED]	Mission of Canada to the European Union
[REDACTED]	Mission of Canada to the European Union
[REDACTED]	Mission of Switzerland to the EU
[REDACTED]	Mission of Switzerland to the EU
[REDACTED]	Network of European Regions for Sustainable and Competitive Tourism
[REDACTED]	New Zealand Permanent Mission to the European Union
[REDACTED]	North Norway European Office
[REDACTED]	North Norway European Office
[REDACTED]	Norway rep
[REDACTED]	Penta Group
[REDACTED]	Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU
[REDACTED]	Permanent Representation of Croatia to the EU
[REDACTED]	Permanent Representation of Czechia to the EU

3. Minutes from meetings in Belgium

ENGAGEMENT REPORTS

ANNEX B

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Dinner, Maison du Luxembourg
Date	31 May 2023
Attending Official(s)	Martin Johnson – SG EUD Director
Who	David McAllister, MEP Zeljana Zovko, MEP
Key Points	[REDACTED]
Action points	[REDACTED]
Comment	<i>These discussions happened in an explicitly confidential space to allow for free and frank exchange.</i>

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	1 June 2023
Attending Official(s)	Martin Johnson – SG EUD Director Joni Smith – SG EUD Deputy Director
Who	Lindsay Appleby, Head of UK Mission to the EU Will McFarlane, Deputy Head of UKMis
Key Points	[REDACTED]
Action points	[REDACTED]
Comment	<i>These discussions happened in an explicitly confidential space to allow for free and frank exchange.</i>

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Hosting Policy Roundtable: Economic Development and Major Events
Date	1 June 2023
Attending Official(s)	[REDACTED], Head of Scottish Government EUD Trade and Economy
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trudy Lindblade, UCI Chief Executive Office • Peter de Wilde, CEO Visit Flanders • Dr. Kristin Kaufmann, Counsellor at the German Permanent Representation to the EU • Cristina Nunez, Managing Director of the NECSTouR • Alan Grant, Senior Golf Manager at Visit Scotland • [REDACTED]Head of Unit, European Commission Directorate-General Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit Flanders spoke about how they had modelled themselves on the best element of Event Scotland; they were keen to continue staff exchange and co-operation supported by an MoU. • Flanders spoke to the usefulness of surveying local populations to understand how best to manage events and tourism impacts. • Germany spoke to the benefit, post-Covid, of how effect events were at generating a sense of local community. • UCI spoke to the wider benefits from the World Championships and their work with the Scottish Government to secure them. • France stressed the importance of having strong bio-diversity and environmental objectives with clear commitments and plans for major sporting events, as well as detailed thinking on legacy. • There was discussion of the negative impacts of major events and tourism with suggestions that tourist taxes need to be strongly focused towards countering them. • Further discussion focused on transport and accommodation strategies that could be adopted to mitigate the negative impacts of tourism and maximise benefits.
Action points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the intention for Visit Flanders to renew MoU with Visit Scotland; and • Visit Scotland and colleagues to consider supporting applications to An EU initiative to reward innovative and smart tourism in European Cities! (europa.eu).

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	1 June 2023
Attending Official(s)	[REDACTED] PS [REDACTED] Senior policy officer [REDACTED], Policy officer
Who	Urmas Paet [UP], MEP, Chair of Arctic Friendship Group Mauri Pekkarinen [MP], MEP Jurgen Siil [JS], S&D Advisor
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AR highlighted Scotland’s interest in its Near Northern Neighbours [NNN]. Stated they must meet regularly at various levels and to share interests, best practices and work together. Scotland’s ambition is to be a significant Northern European partner with its Nordic neighbours and with Baltic states. We must make sure we understand shared interest in energy, and strike to become the battery of Europe. • On Scotland specifically, we are keen to import clean green energy, making our cooperation as broad and efficient as possible. As an energy rich region, we have to be better at being at the heart of energy-focused debates. There is also a link to be made with academic and research programmes. • MP expressed interest in knowing where Scotland’s ambitions are, what kind of cooperation would be most efficient between NNNs. The EU has a Net Zero Act and Hydrogen Bank legislation that could be of interest. AR aware of EU legislation, stressed that non-EU states also have good advise to share, should be included and consulted. Scotland, as a high producer, should also reap benefits of production, supply and technological advances. [REDACTED] • All agreed that there is room for better communication and collaboration on production, creating links and filling gaps the EU may have.
Action points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] to meet Jurgen Siil and gage what kind of organisations or contacts to reach out to, to enhance Nordic cooperation.

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	1 June 2023
Attending Official(s)	[REDACTED] PS [REDACTED] Senior policy officer [REDACTED], Policy officer
Who	Oliver Ropke [OR], EESC President [REDACTED] Civil Society Organisations' Group Amir Ghoreishi, Head of President's Cabinet [REDACTED], Policy Officer [REDACTED] Assistant
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OR spoke as to how working together with Scotland would be the best way to ensure continued interaction and cooperation, especially for the next generation. • AR expressed interest in deepening the connection with social partners through making advisory groups function better and exchanging best practices. [REDACTED]
Action points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the intention for OR to accept the invitation to DAG in September • Note OR's impending visit to Belfast and interest in visiting Scotland in the future. • Note the interest in a Scottish student exchange programme. • Contact CL for more information on agenda and forward look of EESC EU-UK group

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	1 June 2023
Attending Official(s)	Martin Johnson – SG EUD Director
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Nikolaus Marschik, Austrian Perm Rep to EU • [REDACTED] – Comms Secretary to Dr Marschik
Key Points	[REDACTED]
Action points	EUD to provide CabSec with a draft follow-up letter

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	Thursday 1 June 2023, 17.00-17.45, Scotland House Brussels
Attending Official(s)	[REDACTED] – SG EUD Net Zero team
Who	Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, CEO of Hydrogen Europe
Key Points	[REDACTED]
Action points	[REDACTED]
Comment	[REDACTED]

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Scotland House Summer Reception
Date	1 June 2023
Attending Official(s)	All Scotland House Brussels Staff
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 120 attendees, including: Ailish Campbell (Canadian Ambassador), Carl Reaich (New Zealand Ambassador to EU/NATO), Caroline Millar (Australian Ambassador), Edita Hrdá (Czech Permanent Representative), Rita Adam (Head of Swiss Mission to the EU), Jan Jambon (Minister-President of Flanders), Matthias De Moor (Representative of Flanders to the EU) and Mark Kent (CEO Scotch Whisky Association).
Key Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scotland House Brussels' Summer Reception 2023 was a celebration of Scotland's step onto the international stage of sport, with Glasgow set to host the UCI Road World Championships this summer. CEO Trudy Lindblade and Chief Marketing Officer Gwen Raez attended in person and provided extensive marketing support, including branded merchandise, collateral and an interactive stationary bike with digital interface which allowed attendees to ride through the streets of Glasgow virtually. The Cabinet Secretary and Trudy Lindblade delivered speeches which underscored the importance of major sporting events to Scotland's economy, as well as the wider wellbeing benefits of cycling and sport. The Summer Reception also featured a range of Scottish food and drink from the breadth of the country for SHB's key stakeholders. We highlighted the sustainability story of distilleries and farmers from the borders to the islands, showing how businesses can pursue net zero models while maintaining quality and respecting cultural heritage. Whiskies were provided by the Scotch Whisky Association.

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	2 June 2023
Attending Official(s)	Martin Johnson (MJ) – Director EUD [REDACTED] – Head of Engagement, SG Brussels
Who	Vsevelod Chentsov (VC), Ukrainian Ambassador to the EU
Key Points	[REDACTED]
Action points	[REDACTED]

ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Type of engagement	Meeting
Date	2 June 2023
Attending Official(s)	Martin Johnson – SG EUD Director [REDACTED] – Head of Engagement SG SHB
Who	Udo Bullmann MEP
Key Points	[REDACTED]
Action points	[REDACTED]

3. Minutes from meetings in Austria

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Date	15 May 2023
Who	Alan Cole (AC), Chief of Border Management Branch, UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Key Points	[REDACTED]
Action points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up with justice and policing colleagues on potential engagement opportunities with UNODC. [REDACTED]
Comment	[REDACTED]
Attending Official	[REDACTED] Multilateral Policy Adviser International Futures [REDACTED] Deputy Head of European Engagement [REDACTED] Private Office UK Embassy Head of the UN section

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Date	15 May 2023
Who	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexander Schallenberg, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs (AS) [REDACTED] Foreign Policy Adviser [REDACTED] Head of Unit Relations with GB & Ireland, and EFTA
Key Points	AR highlighted that it was good to be back in Vienna and provided details of the programme for his visit, including meetings with a number of international organisations and also to attend the Austrian World Summit taking place the following day, which would provide the opportunity to highlight Scotland's potential to be a major, reliable and affordable supplier of green hydrogen to Europe and our work towards net zero.

	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>AR mentioned his interest in international partnerships for those who are not member states – highlighting the Under 2 coalition as an example but there were other areas that could be looked at and link in with UN. [REDACTED]</p> <p>AR also spoke about the recent Culture summit in Edinburgh, and cultural visits.</p>
Action points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No specific actions.
Comment	[REDACTED]
Attending Official	<p>[REDACTED] Deputy Head European Engagement</p> <p>[REDACTED] Private Office</p>

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	<p>Angus Robertson (AR)</p> <p>Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture</p>
Date	15 May 2023
Who	<p>Ambassador Igli Hasani (IH), Coordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities at the Office for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)</p> <p>Kate Fearon (KF) Deputy Director, Conflict Prevention</p>
Key Points	<p>AR began by highlighting the areas that Scotland has devolved responsibility for that overlap with the OSCE's remit, including justice, policing and human rights.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Action points	[REDACTED]
Comment	[REDACTED]
Attending Official	<p>[REDACTED] Multilateral Policy Adviser, International Futures</p> <p>[REDACTED] Deputy Head European Engagement</p> <p>[REDACTED] Private Office</p>

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Date	16 May 2023
Who	Tinne Van der Straeten, Belgian Minister for Energy (TS) Caroline Vermeulen, Belgian Ambassador to Austria (CV) [REDACTED]Diplomatic Adviser
Key Points	AR began by providing a brief summary of Scotland's pivot away from fossil fuels and our work on renewables and how the environment in Scotland are ideal for this area of work. He provided an update on the recent Scotwind announcement and the award of the first round of licences for approximately 27 GW. He also spoke about plans looking at infrastructure and interconnection. [REDACTED] AR mentioned that there is lot of interest around hydrogen and there had been a number of visits from German Länder to Scotland recently looking at this area. [REDACTED]
Action points	[REDACTED]
Comment	[REDACTED]
Attending Official	[REDACTED] Deputy Head European Engagement [REDACTED] Multilateral Policy Adviser, International Futures [REDACTED] Private Office

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Date	15 May 2023
Who	Natercia Rodrigues (NR) Officer in Charge, UN Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) [REDACTED] Programme Officer
Key Points	AR began the meeting by highlighting the size of the Scottish Space industry. Scotland is now the largest producer of small satellites in Europe. The majority of the industry, he explained, is based in Glasgow but supports a supply chain across the country. AR added that Space Scotland, an umbrella organisation that brings together industry, academia and government, is at the forefront of developing and expanding the sector. Given Scotland's position as a leader in the space sector in Europe we are keen that we are linked in with UNOOSA to leverage the knowledge base in central Scotland.

	<p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>AR mentioned the work that's been done by colleagues in the Scottish Government on sustainability and mentioned the Space Sustainability Strategy.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p>
Action points	[REDACTED]
Comment	[REDACTED]
Attending Official	<p>[REDACTED] Multilateral Policy Adviser, International Futures</p> <p>[REDACTED] Deputy Head European Engagement</p> <p>[REDACTED] Private Office</p> <p>UK Embassy Head of the UN section</p>

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	<p>Angus Robertson (AR)</p> <p>Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture</p>
Date	15 May 2023
Who	<p>Manfred Profazi (MP), Regional Director, International Office of Migration (IOM)</p> <p>[REDACTED] Senior Regional Specialist</p>
Key Points	<p>AR began by explaining that the Scottish Government has devolved responsibility for areas impacted by migration. In addition, Scotland's history of significant inward and outward migration made the issue of migration particularly relevant to Scottish society. He added that we would be keen to work with the IOM on areas of mutual benefit.</p> <p>AR spoke about the success of the Scottish Government's Ukrainian Resettlement Programme. He noted the work that has been done to integrate Ukrainians into Scottish communities, including a partnership between the Ukrainian Consulate and local authorities to find housing and support networks for refugees with the Ukrainian diaspora in Scotland.</p> <p>[REDACTED]</p> <p>AR concluded by promising to share details of Scotland's Ukraine Resettlement Programme and the work being done by the Scottish Refugee Council.</p>

Action points	[REDACTED]
Comment	[REDACTED]
Attending Official	[REDACTED] Multilateral Policy Adviser, International Futures [REDACTED] Deputy Head European Engagement [REDACTED] Private Office

EU ENGAGEMENT REPORT	
Minister	Angus Robertson (AR) Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture
Date	15 May 2023
Who	Artur Lorkowski (AL), Director of the Energy Community
Key Points	AR started the meeting by setting out Scotland's desire to work with European partners on energy and shared some details of our collaboration with near northern neighbours on renewable projects. He added that the Scottish Government was open to finding ways in which we could support the Energy Community's objectives. [REDACTED]
Action points	[REDACTED]
Comment	[REDACTED]
Attending Official	[REDACTED] Multilateral Policy Adviser, International Futures [REDACTED] Deputy Head European Engagement [REDACTED] Private Office